

SECOND AND THIRD DIVISION NOTES

There were some very happy faces, dry throats and relieved minds among the Weston supporters last Sunday when the final whistle blew on what had been a very hard dour struggle for 90 minutes in a game that could have swung either way at any time throughout the match and both Weston and Pan Hellenic are to be congratulated upon the efforts of their players.

However, let us now look forward and see what this weekend could have in store. On Saturday Jesmond will journey to Adamstown to meet Merewether and whilst Jesmond should win this game it cannot afford to take their opponents too cheaply.

Be well groomed on and off the field see

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as Merewether has been showing patchy glimpses of improvement and Saturday may be the day when the whole team will combine.

Charlestown will be hosts to Young Wallsend and this should result in a win for the youthful visitors. The majority of the wins of Young Wallsend have been by a narrow margin whilst their losses have been by a fair margin whilst Charlestown registered its first point with a drawn game last week.

Kearsley will be at home to Dudley - Redhead and should have no great difficulty in defeating Dudley-Redhead, a team which started the season well but is now slipping back.

Pan Hellenic will journey to Blacksmiths to meet Belmont - Swansea and whilst possibly still disappointed after their loss last week, they should have no difficulty re-entering the winning lists.

Weston will be at home to Slavia United and should not be greatly troubled to register another two points. Some interesting matches are scheduled for Third

Division this weekend, probably the most interesting of these being the Macquarie Wanderers v. Bellbird fixture for whilst 4 points separate these two teams, Macquarie Wanderers have played one game less than Bellbird and yet have a slightly better goal average having scored 41 goals with 8 against compared with Bellbird 39-9.

This puts Macquarie Wanderers in a favourable position as a win this week and the following week could lift them from sixth position on the premiership table to the top of the table at the end of the first round (on goal averages) with a game in hand for next week they meet Hamilton Azzuri who is at present sharing the lead on points with Bellbird as each of these three teams should win their fixtures in round 11.

It would be a welcome note to enter the second round with three teams in the lead all on equal points.

In the other matches Toronto Diggers meet Newcastle Tech. on Saturday and should add another two points to their tally.

Barnsley will be at home to Hamilton Azzuri and the visitors should go home with the two points.

Nelson Bay will oppose South Wallsend in what promises to be an interesting match with possibly a slight advantage to South Wallsend.

Stockton journey to The Entrance and this could possibly give The Entrance the opportunity of registering their second win of the season.

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NORTHERN SOCCER NEWS

Vol. 2, No. 9.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF THE NORTHERN SOCCER LEAGUE

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1964

NORTH BEING PUSHED INTO BACKGROUND

Is the North being made a Soccer "bunny" because of the selfish, parochial and "we'll-have-all and you'll-have-none" attitude of the N.S.W. Soccer Federation?

It certainly seems like it. The N.S.W. Soccer Federation which controls the game in Sydney and the South Coast, has named a side to meet the German team, Munster, and has the temerity to call it N.S.W. The Northern Soccer League is not represented, although it probably has more talented youngsters in its top competition than any other area.

It would not have been so bad had the Munster side been able to play in the North but, since it will play only once in this State, it should have met a side selected from all parts of N.S.W. and not merely the Sydney area.

The N.S.W. Soccer Federation which should be call-

ed the Sydney-South Coast Federation, is taking too literally the fact that Northern N.S.W. has been given autonomy and a larger area.

That is O.K. — but not when the North is being pushed continually into the background, as in this instance.

On Page 3, Paul MacKenzie has something to say on this matter.

This has been one of the quietest weeks of the Soccer season for, with rain washing out training, there has been little to learn about players since few have reported to clubs. That has made the job tougher for selectors, who are expected to be crystal-ball gazers of determining if the players are fit or not. Most of them have taken the line that no news is good news and have assumed that all is well.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

ADAMSTOWN v. WEST WALLSEND
Referee: G. Muir. Linesmen: F. Myles, C. Jack.

CESSNOCK v. AWABA
Referee: H. Lonsdale. Linesmen: P. Bird, T. Ayre.

N'CLE. AUSTRAL v. CARDIFF
Referee: W. Jones. L'men: W. Disney, W. Gardiner.

LAKE MACQUARIE v. WALLSEND
Referee: K. Urwin. L'men: G. Muir, L. Mottershead.

MAITLAND v. MAYFIELD UNITED
Referee: A. Roberts. Linesmen: W. Turner, J. Carlin.

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MACQUARIE WANDERERS TO PLAY IN GUNNEDAH

This weekend, promising Third Division team Macquarie United, journey to Gunnedah for a social visit and to give the home team an opportunity to test themselves against Newcastle standards.

ARGENTINA TOP TEAM

Argentina won the "Little World Cup" tournament, which ended in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday, with England sharing last place.

Argentina won its three matches. Brazil, which holds the World Cup, won three and lost one—beating Portugal in the last match—while England and Portugal each drew one match and lost two.

Bolton won the Italian Football League championship at the weekend, when it defeated Inter Milan, 2-nil, in a play-off for the title in Rome on Sunday.

St. Etienne won the French Football League First Division championship when it drew 2-2 with Strasbourg on Sunday. Monaco was runner up three points behind St. Etienne.

The trip will undoubtedly help foster the code in the North-West and should be a criterion for the other teams to follow suit for the good of the game. do much

A win by Gunnedah would do much to boost the code in the area which is slowly gaining ground on the well established League code.

No matter who the eventual winner is of the match, it is certain that Macquarie United will enjoy a good weekend for the Gunnedah officials and supporters will certainly show them what North-West hospitality is like.

Doubtless a return visit to Newcastle will be made in the future and this could provide a good opportunity for the officials to get together.

Last Week's Results

FIRST DIVISION.—Mayfield United 2, Cessnock 0; Cardiff 1, Lake Macquarie 2; Wallsend 5, Maitland 2; West Wallsend 1, Newcastle Austral 4; Awaba 0, Adamstown 1.

ALLIANCE LEAGUE.—Mayfield United 2, Cessnock 0; West Wallsend 1, Newcastle Austral 0; Awaba 0, Adamstown 0; Cardiff 1, Lake Macquarie 0; Wallsend 5, Maitland 2.

SECOND DIVISION.—Merewether 2, Jesmond 4; Kearsley 2, Dudley-Redhead 4; Charlestown 2, Young Wallsend 2; Weston 8, Slavia United 0; Belmont-Swansea 2, Pan Hellenic 2.

SECOND DIVISION.—Reserve grade: Charlestown 1, Young Wallsend 0; Merewether 0, Jesmond 4; Weston 3, Slavia United 0; Kearsley 0, Dudley-Redhead 3; Belmont-Swansea 3, Pan Hellenic 0.

THIRD DIVISION.—Barnsley 0, Hamilton Azzuri 3; Nelson Bay 3, South Wallsend 0; The Entrance 5, Stockton 2; Toronto Diggers 2, Newcastle Tech. College 0; Macquarie Wanderers 4, Belbird 2.

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SYDNEY INTERESTS ARE COLD SHOULDERING THE NORTH

By PAUL MACKENZIE

The N.S.W. Soccer Federation gave the North no more than its due when it ceded it the right to control its own Soccer affairs and also a much bigger territory in which to work.

It was probably eager to unload the responsibility to allow selfish interests parochial-minded Sydney officials to give more time to "big-noting" themselves.

But it has not stopped there, for the North is being pushed aside by those Sydney interests—particularly when it comes to recognising the North when teams from other countries visit this State.

The North has been pushed aside in the matter of the visit to N.S.W. by Munster, the touring German team which, with only one match to play in this State, will meet an under 23 team labelled as N.S.W., but to include only players from the Sydney - South Coast area.

This is a piece of big city arrogance that has caused considerable criticism in the North, as well it should.

By what right does the N.S.W. Federation which does not control Soccer in ALL of N.S.W. abrogate to itself the right to dub a side "N.S.W."?

If the N.S.W. Federation decides to play a match and that only players from the area it controls—small in relation to that which the

Northern N.S.W. League administrators—well and good, provided the team is known as Sydney-South Coast. But it should not be, and must not be, billed as representative of the State's Soccer strength.

The Northern N.S.W. Soccer League came into being when the N.S.W. Federation accepted a scheme to divide the control of the game in the State, the plan being to have federations in the Sydney area, the North and the South.

Nothing has been done to divide Sydney and the South Coast into separate administrations while the North has been cast adrift. The North has not complained about the task allocated to it but is rightly critical that the South Coast should be favoured while the North is pushed out in to the cold.

The granting of self-control to the North was no more than its right and the idea that it should be regarded as a State in itself for the purposes of administration and in intra-State and interstate competition was sound enough thinking. But it seems that, having granted those powers, the N.S.W. Federation considered it could wash its hands of the North in every respect.

As far as the Australian Cup and interstate competition matches are concerned, the North has been given its proper place but when teams come from other countries, N.S.W. should be regarded as one State just as are Victoria, Queensland and the rest. A N.S.W. team should be exactly as the name implies—a side made up of the best 11 players in the State—not just the pick of the players in Sydney and on the South Coast.

But it is not so.

When Everton was here a few weeks ago, it met a supposedly N.S.W. team which did not include a player from outside the charmed circle but it was still named N.S.W.

Not a player from the North was given a moment's

thought when the selectors met. But the North showed, when it met Everton, it had the players who could hold their own in any company.

The same position obtains when we get to a national level. Jimmy Kelly, appointed Australia's sole selector for the so-called "Test" matches, paid no more than a cursory, courtesy call on Newcastle, watched a few players under floodlights for a short time and then went on his merry way to name Australia's sides without having seen what the North had to offer.

Agreed, the North was given a match against Everton—but it was at the end of the tour and on a weekday.

How could it have been expected that a true picture of the support for the game in the North could be given by planting a mid-week match on us. What a shock Sydney officials, who came to scoff, got when they saw the bumper crowd that turned up at the Sports Ground on a Wednesday. The same-sized crowd would not have turned up to a midweek match in Sydney. Just what size the crowd would have been had the Newcastle match been played on a Saturday or Sunday defies imagination. But the prospect should surely have given Sydney interests food for thought.

We don't know that any of our players would have been good for the under 23 team to meet the Germans. But we have every reason to believe they would be. In fact, I'm willing to wager a little that a Northern under 23 team, given as much time together as the Sydney players, would more than hold its own against the side

that will meet Munster.

We'll never know the answer to the question, since our lads were not given a chance to show their wares because Sydney interests want the lot and make no secret of their determination to get it and keep it. They have no hesitation in cold-shouldering the North and show it by their cheeky attitude in dubbing any team, no matter from whence come the players, as a N.S.W. side.

It's not good enough and the N.S.W. Federation should be told so.

It certainly looks, as far as Sydney administrators are concerned, that the North is the unwanted member of the N.S.W. Soccer family.

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POINT SCORE CHANGES

There was more chopping and changing on the Northern Soccer League First Division premiership points score table as a result of matches last weekend.

Newcastle Austral made the most marked advance with its 4-1 win against West Wallsend which has now

lost four matches in a row. Austral goes up the table from eighth place to fifth, although only because of a goal average that is better than that of Mayfield United, Cardiff and Maitland which also have scored seven points, Austral's tally. Adamstown's sterling win at Toronto last Sunday when

it scored the only goal in the match against Awaba has put it into second place, one point above the Toronto side.

West Wallsend, which was well in the hunt not so long ago, has slipped remarkably in the last month in which it has lost its four matches, so that it is now second last.

Cardiff also slipped a rung or two, going down from fifth place to seventh as a result of losing its first match on its own ground this season when Lake Macquarie beat it last Sunday.

Lake Macquarie goes from success to success. It has yet to be beaten and with more matches on its own ground than on those of opponents from now on, Lake Macquarie will be the team hardest to beat. It meets Wallsend, second team on the points score table at Speers Point tomorrow. This match will probably tell the story.

If Lake Macquarie is still unbeaten when the afternoon is out it looks home and hosed in the premiership—and well would it deserve the pennant. It is a mighty good effort for the youngest side in the competition to have built up such a fine record in the first eight matches and the record speaks volumes for Tommy Dawson's capabilities as a coach. He has developed the lads into a very fine team.

In the 213 matches played by the 51 teams in the five divisions in the Northern League premiership, 188 have been won and only 25 drawn, no fixture in the Third Division having been tied. There have been 1023 goals scored in the games at an average of 4.8 a match.

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Wallsend meets Cardiff in Daniels Cup final

Wallsend and Cardiff selectors will be hoping players in their sides escape even minor injuries in Sunday's competition matches, for they are keen to be at full strength for the Daniels Cup final at Wallsend on Monday.

This is a trophy eagerly sought by Northern clubs and Cardiff is also eager to wrest it from Wallsend, which won it last season.

And Cardiff is also keen to revenge the drubbing it got from Wallsend when the sides met at the Crystal Palace in a competition match earlier in the season. Cardiff is a stronger side now than then and could give Wallsend a run for its money.

However, Wallsend has not been beaten on its own ground this season, having won five matches at home,

scoring 23 goals and conceding only four in them. But Cardiff has had an unlucky away run, losing its three matches on the grounds of other teams, scoring only five goals and conceding 13. Still, there is the fact that Cardiff invariably pulls something out of the hat when it meets Wallsend and could do so again.

The Daniels Cup competition is one of the most important in the North—although not always recognised as such—since it provides finance for junior and school football.

ALLIANCE LEAGUE

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
WALLSEND	8	6	1	1	32	12	13
AWABA	8	5	2	1	22	5	12
ADAMSTOWN	8	5	2	1	31	8	12
CARDIFF	8	4	2	2	19	12	10
LAKE MACQ.	8	4	1	3	23	18	9
CESSNOCK	8	4	1	3	11	13	9
WEST WALLSEND	8	3	2	3	18	15	8
MAYFIELD	8	1	2	5	10	24	4
AUSTRAL	8	1	1	6	7	24	3
MAITLAND	8	0	0	8	7	49	0
TOTALS	80	33	14	33	180	180	80

NORTHERN SOCCER LEAGUE

FIXTURES FOR NEXT WEEKEND

FIRST DIVISION.—Saturday: Adamstown v. Cardiff. Sunday: Lake Macquarie v. Mayfield United; Maitland v. Cessnock; Newcastle Austral v. Wallsend, at Wallsend; Awaba v. West Wallsend.

ALLIANCE LEAGUE.—Matches as in First Division.

SECOND DIVISION.—Jesmond v. Young Wallsend; Merewether v. Dudley-Redhead; Charlestown v. Pan Hellenic; Kearsley v. Slavia United; Belmont-Swansea v. Weston. Reserve grade: Early fixtures to Second Division matches, as above.

THIRD DIVISION.—Barnsley v. South Wallsend; Newcastle Teachers' College v. Stockton; Nelson Bay v. Newcastle Tech. College; The Entrance v. Bellbird; Toronto Diggers v. Macquarie Wanderers; Hamilton Azzuri, bye.

DANIELS CUP FINAL WALLSEND v. CARDIFF

THIS MONDAY

at the
Crystal Palace Ground

FIRST DIVISION MATCHES AND TEAMS

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

ADAMSTOWN v. WEST WALLSEND

White with Red & Green

1. B. HALLAM
2. B. CLARK
3. J. McINALLY
4. B. DAYKIN
5. J. EASTON
6. J. POWER
7. D. JOHNS
8. R. BAARTZ
9. R. HOWELLS
10. W. COOK
11. C. CURRAN

Blue with White

1. W. ARMSTRONG
2. A. WILSON
3. K. WOODS
4. R. HUGHES
5. R. COOPER
6. R. SANGSTER
7. S. MULLAWA
8. T. YEATS
9. J. SHEEN
10. K. URWIN
11. D. AHRENS

Referee: G. Muir. Linesmen: F. Myles, C. Jack.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

CESSNOCK v. AWABA

Gold with Black

1. M. ROBERTS
2. R. JACKSON
3. K. ROWBOTTOM
4. A. JOHNS
5. C. ALMONDS
6. T. SNEDDON
7. T. BARR
8. J. LENNARD
9. J. BARR
10. D. WILLIAMS
11. J. PEEL

Blue with Gold Stripes

1. J. SMITH
2. J. PRESTWELL
3. J. DOLAN
4. W. FIELD
5. L. SHARP
6. R. REYNOLDS
7. R. HITCHCOCK
8. R. BURGOYNE
9. D. FIELD
10. B. SHARP
11. R. HOLLAND

Referee: H. Lonsdale. Linesmen: P. Bird, T. Ayre.

N'CLE. AUSTRAL v. CARDIFF

Mauve with White

1. J. LANZONI
2. E. SOKOLOWSKI
3. R. DEAN
4. R. LLOYD
5. R. MCKENZIE
6. J. DOOLAN
7. K. TWIDLE
8. W. BARON
9. T. GARRETT
10. W. HARVEY
11. W. PATON

Tangerine with White

1. P. NORTHEY
2. W. WALSTEAD
3. A. HOWE
4. J. O'BRIEN
5. T. ICETON
6. C. MOORE
7. M. BLACK
8. R. FRAME
9. D. SCHIO
10. J. McNAIRN
11. J. SNEDDON

Referee: W. Jones. L'men: W. Disney, W. Gardiner.

LAKE MACQUARIE v. WALLSEND

White with Blue & Gold

1. K. GABRIEL
2. W. WHITELAW
3. R. CLUNE
4. J. WOODS
5. J. WELLHAM
6. L. WALSH
7. J. DOYLE
8. W. WRIGHT
9. T. PAVLAVIC
10. G. HINCHCLIFFE
11. J. KING

Red with White

1. A. HOURIGAN
2. D. MCKENZIE
3. K. NOLAN
4. W. DAVIES
5. D. MORROW
6. G. GREEN
7. B. MORROW
8. K. WHITMORE
9. B. TISDALE
10. R. GILES
11. G. LEE

Referee: K. Muir. L'men: G. Muir, L. Mottershead.

MAITLAND v. MAYFIELD UNITED

White with Black

1. M. BAMBACH
2. L. BUSH
3. S. ELLENBACHER
4. J. MEIER
5. K. GRANT
6. F. WOOD
7. J. SNAITH
8. M. PARKER
9. H. SCHNEIDER
10. N. SCOTT
11. F. RAUCH

Green with White

1. K. MINTER
2. B. SMITH
3. A. WEST
4. W. SHEEHAN
5. R. BOSLEM
6. A. LAMBKIN
7. B. LEWSAM
8. R. PRICE
9. K. McGUINNESS
10. A. SKELLEY
11. K. ROSS

Referee: A. Roberts. Linesmen: W. Turner, J. Carlin.

NORTHERN LEAGUE POINTS TABLE

HOME MATCHES

AWAY MATCHES

TOTALS

	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
LAKE MACQUARIE	3	0	0	10	3	6	3	2	0	11	8	8	8	6	2	0	21	11	14
WALLSEND	5	0	0	23	4	10	0	1	2	7	10	1	8	5	1	2	30	14	11
ADAMSTOWN	3	0	0	10	5	6	1	2	2	10	14	4	8	4	2	2	20	19	10
AWABA	2	1	1	10	7	5	2	0	2	13	14	4	8	4	1	3	23	21	9
AUSTRAL	2	0	1	11	8	4	1	1	3	8	13	3	8	3	1	4	19	21	7
MAYFIELD	2	3	0	14	11	7	0	0	3	4	10	0	8	2	3	3	18	21	7
CARDIFF	3	1	1	11	6	7	0	0	3	5	13	0	8	3	1	4	16	19	7
MAITLAND	2	0	1	3	5	4	1	1	3	9	15	3	8	3	1	4	12	20	7
WEST WALLSEND	2	0	3	14	16	4	0	1	2	4	6	1	8	2	1	5	18	22	5
CESSNOCK	0	3	1	9	10	3	0	0	4	4	12	0	8	0	3	5	13	22	3
TOTALS	24	8	8	115	75	56	8	8	24	75	115	24	80	32	16	32	190	190	80

Nine of the 11 teams in the grade have had byes, each receiving two points, so accounting for difference in totals of matches won and lost.

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News from Gunnedah . .

The Queen's Birthday weekend is an important time for Gunnedah Soccer. Bankstown Thistle are coming to play on Saturday, Macquarie Wanderers on Sunday and our six-a-side is held on Monday.

Thistle are bringing five teams, under 10, under 12, under 14, under 16 and their Sydney Second Division team. Our boys will be playing them for the Tom McKnight Cup. This is decided on the number of games won, so every game is vital. Our teams have been selected and have had some trial runs together with a manager-coach advising each team.

Gunnedah all-age team is a combination of many different occupations and types of players.

Some of them known to the writer are: Henry Rugers, 17, Dutch born. Learnt his Soccer in Gun-nedah. Has also played good Rugby League and Union, but prefers the best game. A very sound full-back who is never really beaten.

Newspaperman, John Paton, 17, High School student. Brilliant fast centre half, Gunnedah Juniors.

Ken Paton, 40, Shire Engineer. Former top class Rugby League half back who has seen the light. Father of John.

Bill Adams, 30, born Holland, but has been an

Australian for several years. A tireless attacking wing half who has been in every North West representative team.

Bruce Jaeger, 25, truck driver. The only player in Gunnedah who is still playing and started playing when the Gunnedah Club was formed in 1955.

Les Bargett, 20, school-teacher. Fast outside right. A tireless worker who sets a wonderful example with his skill and sportsmanship.

Arkie Berghote, 17, student. Fast and fit. Very accurate with his passes and a good shot at goal.

Trevor Hart, 25, born England. Powerful kicker who scores often when he shoots low enough.

Phillip Morgan, 17, student. Son of president and selector. Has a good kick if given time to use it. Slow off the mark, but can move if he likes. Gun-nedah Juniors.

Peter Bettridge, 19, shepherd. Fast for his size. Gunnedah Juniors.

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JUNE 30 DEADLINE FOR TRANSFER OF PLAYERS

The attention of all clubs is drawn to the Constitution of the Northern Soccer League relative to the transfer of players which cease on June 30, 1964.

Provision is made how-ever for a period of grace beyond this date where

negotiations for the transfer were proceeding before June 30 but this period of grace is only available when the club has notified the Secretary of the Northern Soccer League in writing prior to June 23 that negotiations for the transfer of a particular player are proceeding and may not be finalised prior to June 30.

Good luck to Max Hamilton and his lads from Weston who have taken the lead in the Northern Second Division premiership. It would be a great thing for Soccer in the North if Weston holds its lead to the end and gains promotion to the First Division. Soccer in this area wants two top teams from the coalfields. That's a gentle reminder to Cessnock to pull up its socks and make sure it stays in the top bracket. It would be a tragedy for Northern Soccer if it were relegated as could easily happen unless it gets a move on.

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SECOND AND THIRD DIVISION NOTES

All games this weekend will be played on Sunday and the most attractive fixture would appear to be Pan Hellenic v. Kearsley.

Pan Hellenic unexpectedly was held to a draw last Sunday by Belmont-Swansea whilst Kearsley equally surprised by going down to Dudley-Redhead.

On form Pan Hellenic should have no difficulty in defeating Kearsley but it is felt that the more robust play of Kearsley could upset the rhythm of Pan Hellenic's play and if this happens a very close struggle would eventuate.

Jesmond are at home to leaders Weston and unless a complete reversal takes place, Weston should continue their undefeated run.

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Slavia United meets Belmont-Swansea and on paper this game should enable Belmont-Swansea to gain an additional two points to help it in its endeavour to ensure a semi-final berth.

Charlestown journeys to Dudley-Redhead and the home team should be victorious, although with two drawn games in the last two matches, Charlestown could be showing improvement in which case they could fully extend the Dudley-Redhead team.

Young Wallsend meets Merewether and with the visitors showing improved play this could also develop into a fine display of soccer.

On Saturday we see one of the outstanding matches of the season at S. & L. Oval when Hamilton Azzuri meets Macquarie Wanderers and a win to Wanderers would lift them within striking distance of the leaders and would dispose Hamilton Azzuri from the leadership, who at the same time cannot afford to lose their grip at this stage. I am predicting a win for Macquarie Wanderers and if this prediction is correct then a new premiership

leader could evolve from the match. Bellbird v. Toronto Diggers or Hamilton Azzuri could retain that position and goal averages.

Bellbird and Toronto Diggers are both on equal points but Bellbird has the better goal average and unless the unexpected happens, Bellbird should win but by only a narrow margin.

The Entrance journeys to Tighes Hill to meet Newcastle Tech. and here again we have two teams on equal points, consequently the result could go either way without surprising.

Stockton meets Nelson Bay and the latter could possibly join two or three other teams on equal points for the premiership lead.

South Wallsend play Teachers College in the remaining match and should have no difficulty in gathering an additional two points.

A point of interest in this Division is that we have played 44 matches and there has been not one drawn game. Who is going to be the first with the doubtful honour?

With Weston likely to go up, Cessnock is having such a poor run that it is nearing the danger zone of relegation. It would be tragic if a side of such tradition were to be forced into the Second Division, but that is what seems to be the shape of things to come. However, Cessnock has always been a grand fighting side and, with the question fair and square in front of it, we can expect a solid effort to escape the relegation zone. If the bid succeeds there will be many who will breathe a sigh of relief.

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NORTHERN SOCCER NEWS

Vol. 2, No. 10

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME OF THE NORTHERN SOCCER LEAGUE

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1964

WATCH THE MARKINGS

Clubs in the North had better hustle up their groundsman, because the referees are on the war-path!

The tooters are upset at the casual markings of some of the playing pitches and are not going to put up with half-done, slip-shod jobs in future. And neither they should.

Grounds should be properly marked and, if clubs do the job and referees refuse to allow matches to go on, clubs have none but themselves to blame.

The rules state quite clearly what is required and it is high time the clubs obeyed the rules.

It needs only one referee to call a game off because the markings are not distinctive or correct, and there will be a big squeal, but the referee will be acting rightly—and for the good of the game.

The Northern Soccer

League should also insist that playing pitches be lined in white. This habit of the lines being brown should be outlawed. Spectators can't see the lines from any distance and, surely be to goodness, the spectators should come first. It is impossible to stand on one side of a ground, say at about the half-way mark, and see the penalty area markings.

Many players say they can't see them from a distance—and, if players are in the dark, how much is a paying patron losing. White markings would add to the presentation of a match and allow a spectator to become more a part of it.

On that count alone, white lines are an essential. I hope the referees make that item next on their list of demands. They would do a service, not only to themselves, but also for the game in the North in general if they did.—P.McK.

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